

May 20, 2014

The Honorable Michael A. Barbieri  
Chairman, Delaware House Health & Human Development Committee  
411 Legislative Avenue  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Chairman Barbieri:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and the Delaware State Osteopathic Medical Society (DSOMS) are writing to strongly encourage you to support SB 94 in committee.** This bill would prohibit minors from using tanning facilities. Tanning facilities would also be required to post warning signs that include the health risks associated with tanning. The AOA, AOCD and DSOMS support imposing appropriate safety precautions and educational requirements upon tanning device operators.

The AOA proudly represents its professional family of more than 104,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs, is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools, and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. The AOCD represents over 600 physicians, dermatology residents and student members. It is dedicated to improving the standards of the practice of dermatology, stimulating the study of dermatology and promoting understanding of the nature and scope of services rendered by osteopathic dermatologists. DSOMS is a professional organization that represents over 300 osteopathic physicians in Delaware.

Tanning equipment works by bombarding the skin with ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Tanning salons use lamps that emit UV-A and UV-B radiation, both of which damage the skin and can cause skin cancer.<sup>1</sup> In 2009, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a working group of the World Health Organization (WHO), classified UV-emitting tanning devices as a carcinogen, an agent known to cause cancer in humans.<sup>2</sup> In 2012, a study found that indoor tanning can cause the most common form of skin cancer, non-melanoma skin cancer, in addition to the deadliest form of skin cancer, malignant melanoma.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Food and Drug Administration, [Indoor Tanning: The Risks of Ultraviolet Rays](http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm186687.htm), May 11, 2010, available at <http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm186687.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> IARC, [Sunbeds and UV Radiation](http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds_uvradiation.php), July 7, 2009, available at [http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds\\_uvradiation.php](http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds_uvradiation.php).

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Fernandez, [Tanning Beds Linked to Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer](http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/10/12846/tanning-beds-linked-non-melanoma-skin-cancer), Oct. 2, 2012, available at <http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/10/12846/tanning-beds-linked-non-melanoma-skin-cancer>.

Prohibiting minors from using tanning equipment is an effective means to protect them from the long-term health risks of these devices. Young people are at a heightened risk of developing skin cancer from indoor tanning, as they subject themselves to additional years of artificial UV exposure.<sup>4</sup> For this reason, the WHO and the American Academy of Dermatology recommend banning the use of tanning devices by minors.<sup>5</sup> States that have restricted access to indoor tanning for minors have seen stable or decreased rates of skin cancer, while states without these policies have seen an increase in the same.<sup>6</sup>

The use of tanning equipment by children is inappropriate and should be banned due to its long-term health effects. In addition, adults who choose to patronize tanning facilities deserve to be made aware of the dangers of exposure to UV radiation. **We urge you to protect Delaware's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting SB 94.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas Schilligo, MS, AOA Director of State Government Affairs, at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

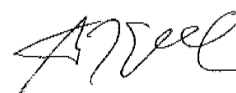
Sincerely,



Norman E. Vinn, DO, MBA, FACOFP  
President, AOA



Suzanne Rozenberg, DO  
President, AOCD



Stephen J. Kushner, DO  
President, DSOMS

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<sup>4</sup> See, Jean-Francois Dore and Marie-Christine Chignol, Tanning Salons and Skin Cancer, Photochem. Photobiol. Sci. 11, 30-37 (2012).

<sup>5</sup> Adam Riker, Nicolas Zea, and Tan Trinh, The Epidemiology, Prevention, and Detection of Melanoma, The Ochsner Journal, 10:56-65 (2010).

<sup>6</sup> Dore, et al., supra.